



ABSTRACT

A money handling mechanism has a first port for connection to a machine controller and a second port to which further money handling mechanisms can be connected. Different types of mechanism, such as a card acceptor or a bill validator, can be connected to the second port over a bus. The first port may be connected to one of several interface adapters, and the communications protocol used is selected accordingly. If the first port uses the same protocol as the second port, signals are passed transparently between the first port and the second port. Signals from the additional mechanism may be modified to be recognizable by the controller. The money handling mechanism may convert between the denominations of currencies represented in the protocols over the first and second ports.